



BOARD Advocacy 2026-2027

Ever Growing, Learning, and
Living in Christ

vision Office



ADVOCACY



As stewards of Catholic education, the Evergreen Catholic Schools (ECSSD) Board of Trustees advocates for students, families, and faith-filled learning communities. Our advocacy is rooted in Gospel values, human dignity, and a commitment to ensuring that every student is known, valued, supported, and prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

The Board's advocacy priorities focus on strengthening Catholic education through:

- **Catholic Education**
- **Instructional Funding**
- **Well-Being**
- **Infrastructure**

We invite parents, parishioners, and community partners to join us in advocating for the future of Catholic education by using the information and resources available on this page to engage with elected officials and raise awareness of the needs and opportunities facing our students and schools.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION



Rooted in
Our Faith

GOAL: Maintain non-partisan government support for publicly-funded Catholic education in its current form.

KEY POINTS

- **Catholic education is a constitutionally protected choice for Alberta families.** Publicly funded Catholic education enables families to choose an education rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Gospel, and the Catholic faith tradition.
- **Faith formation is central to Catholic education.** Catholic schools nurture the spiritual growth of students by integrating faith into learning, relationships, service, and all aspects of school life.
- **Catholic schools foster vibrant faith communities.** Evergreen Catholic Schools is committed to helping students encounter Christ, deepen their relationship with God, and live as witnesses of faith, hope, and love.
- **Parents are the primary educators of their children.** Catholic schools partner with families and parishes to support the faith formation and character development of each student.
- **Catholic identity enriches learning and personal growth.** Students are guided by a faith-based worldview grounded in human dignity, compassion, justice, and service to others.
- **Constitutional protections safeguard educational diversity.** Alongside Indigenous and Francophone educational rights, Catholic education is protected within Canada's constitutional framework and supported by longstanding legal precedent, ensuring continued access to faith-based education within Alberta's publicly funded system.



INSTRUCTIONAL FUNDING



Cultivate
Learning

GOAL: ECSSD will continue to advocate for increased funding for our division.

KEY POINTS

- **Funding must reflect the realities of today's classrooms.** Sustainable increases to instructional funding are needed to address enrollment growth, inflationary pressures, rising operating costs, and the increasing complexity of student learning needs.
- **Students learn best when funding can be directed to local priorities.** Greater flexibility within provincial funding supports school divisions in addressing the unique needs of their students, schools, and communities, while preserving the autonomy of locally elected school boards to allocate resources where they are needed most.
- **Adequate funding supports student success.** Increased instructional funding enables school divisions to maintain appropriate class sizes, provide targeted interventions, and ensure students have access to the teachers and support staff they need to thrive.
- **Strong rural schools contribute directly to strong rural communities.** Families are more likely to live and remain in rural Alberta when they know their children can access the learning, wellness, and support services they need. Equitable access to these services strengthens the long-term sustainability of the communities that support Alberta's economy and future growth.
- **Inclusive education requires sustainable investment.** Dedicated and sufficient funding is needed to support diverse learning needs and ensure all students can fully participate, belong, and succeed in their learning environments.
- **Funding pressures directly impact classroom supports.** When increases in salaries, benefits, and operating costs are not fully funded, divisions must redirect resources from other areas, reducing flexibility to invest in student learning and support services.
- **Predictable and transparent funding supports effective planning.** Timely and clear communication regarding funding allocations allows school divisions to make informed decisions, responsibly steward resources, and effectively support students throughout the school year.



WELL-BEING

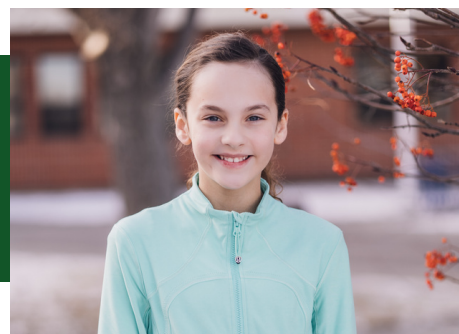


Nurture Well-Being

GOAL: ECSSD is committed to ensuring the needs of our students are met, including their physical, spiritual, and mental health.

KEY POINTS

- **Student well-being is foundational to student success.** Supporting the spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental well-being of students enables them to engage in learning, build positive relationships, and reach their full potential.
- **Student needs are becoming increasingly complex.** Schools are serving students with a wide range of mental health, behavioural, developmental, and wellness needs that often require specialized supports and services beyond what educators alone can provide.
- **Strong partnerships are essential.** Effective support for students depends on collaboration among schools, families, community agencies, and specialized professionals. This includes advocating for equitable access to services in rural communities and supporting cross-ministerial collaboration to address students' diverse needs.
- **Sustainable mental health funding should prioritize direct student supports.** Funding models are most effective when they provide flexibility to address identified student needs and ensure timely access to services and interventions.
- **Early intervention and prevention improve outcomes.** Investing in school-based wellness supports helps identify and address challenges early, strengthening student resilience, engagement, and overall well-being.
- **Accessible mental health supports in every school.** Dedicated provincial funding for school-based mental health professionals helps to enhance our ability to support students, families, and staff proactively.
- **Supportive school communities help students and staff flourish.** When students and staff feel supported, valued, and connected, schools are better positioned to foster belonging, resilience, engagement, and success for all learners.



INFRASTRUCTURE



Grow
Community

GOAL : To efficiently operate and maintain existing schools in our division and support the growth of Catholic education in our communities, ECSSD advocates for capital funding for modernization projects and the renewal of aging facilities.

KEY POINTS

- **St. Marguerite Catholic School and St. Mary Catholic School are ECSSD's highest capital priorities.** St. Marguerite is experiencing enrolment growth alongside significant life-safety and facility challenges, while St. Mary, the only Catholic school serving Westlock and surrounding rural communities, faces substantial structural, mechanical, and accessibility concerns.
- **Strategic investment protects public assets and reduces long-term costs.** Delivering smaller-scale modernizations at two sites provides greater overall value than a single large capital project. Mini-modernization and renewal projects help address health and safety risks, extend facility life, reduce emergency repairs, and provide a cost-effective alternative to future replacement.
- **Students deserve safe, accessible, and faith-filled learning environments.** Capital investments help ensure facilities support student learning, well-being, community engagement, and Catholic education for generations to come.
- **Capital planning must address both growth and aging infrastructure.** Continued population growth in Spruce Grove is placing increasing pressure on school capacity, while aging facilities across the division require renewal and modernization.
- **Sustainable infrastructure funding is essential for responsible stewardship.** Adequate capital and CMR funding are necessary to maintain safe and functional learning environments while preserving provincial assets.



ADVOCATING FOR WHAT MATTERS MOST

The Board's advocacy priorities are rooted in the pillars of the Strategic Plan and informed by the Board's Assurance Plan, ensuring advocacy efforts advance Catholic identity, student learning, well-being, community engagement, and long-term system sustainability. Through effective advocacy, the Board seeks to strengthen publicly funded Catholic education, secure the resources and supports necessary for student success, and promote conditions that enable all students to flourish.

These priorities reflect the Board's commitment to stewarding resources responsibly, responding to the evolving needs of our communities, and serving as a strong voice for students, families, staff, and Catholic education across Evergreen Catholic Schools.

OUR COMMITMENT



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